

Visioneering Wichita Environmental Sustainability Water Issues November 18, 2010 - Featured Speakers

“Water Quality & Supply Economic Concerns for the Local Business Community”

Karma Mason, President of ISI Environmental Services

Ms. Mason is the president of a Wichita based firm that provides environmental health and safety services to the business and government sectors. Ms. Mason also serves by appointment on the Kansas Water Authority as a representative of Kansas Association of Commerce and Industry. KWA is responsible for advising the Governor, the Legislature, and the Director of the Kansas Water Office on water policy issues and for approving the Kansas Water Plan and revisions. The Kansas Water Authority submits an annual report to the Governor and Legislature which contains recommendations on funding to implement the State Water Plan.

“Regulatory Drivers”

Tom Stiles, KDHE Bureau of Water Watershed Planning Section Chief

Mr. Stiles has directed the Kansas TMDL program for KDHE since 1998, setting a course to restore water quality on priority streams and lakes. Prior to working at KDHE, he was a hydrologist, water program manager and assistant director at the Kansas Water Office for 16 years. During that time, he established the state minimum streamflow program, the water assurance program and developed policies and plans through the Kansas Water Plan. He has chaired a variety of committees for the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators, the Western States Water Council and the Interstate Council on Water Policy.

“Public Water Supply & Demand Issues/ Wichita Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project”

Deb Ary, Superintendent of Wichita Public Works & Utilities Water Production & Pumping Division

Ms. Ary is responsible for managing the operation of the City's water production, treatment, and pumping facilities. The City of Wichita gets its water from two major sources, the Equus Beds Wellfield and Cheney Reservoir. The Treatment Plant softens the water and treats it to meet or exceed all of the State and Federal drinking water regulations.

“Urban Stormwater Management Practices”

Scott Lindebak, Wichita Public Works & Utilities Stormwater Engineer

Mr. Lindebak manages the City's Stormwater Management Division which oversees construction, reconstruction and maintenance of the City's storm water drainage system, as well as the water quality aspects of the City's storm water pollution prevention program. Mr. Lindebak has been integrally involved in revising the City's stormwater management ordinance and developing a comprehensive stormwater management manual for urban land development.

“Agricultural Best Management Practices for the Rural Community”

Ron Graber, KSU Watershed Specialist

Mr. Graber is responsible for developing a successful Watershed Restoration Assessment Planning Strategy in the Little Arkansas River watershed that addressed atrazine levels in the watershed. He has worked closely with the rural landowners in the south-central Kansas with implementation of rural Stormwater Best Management Practices.

“Making a Difference - Local Water Quality Project Opportunities”

Hoyt Hillman, Streambank Restoration Project Volunteer Coordinator

Mr. Hillman serves on the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and Advance Planning for Wichita. He has been a dedicated advocate for improving the water quality in local streams for several years. He participates on several local water environment improvement initiatives including the Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment Leadership Committee, the Ark River Coalition, The Greenway Alliance, and River City Wraps Stakeholder Leadership Team. He leads volunteers in stream buffer restoration and geese control projects.